

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of
Takeshi Kamio, et al.

Serial No.: 09/987,404

Filed: November 14, 2004

For:

METHOD FOR SINTERING POROUS-GLASS MATERIAL,
METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING PREFORM AND OPTICAL
FIBER, AND POROUS-GLASS MATERIAL

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



Group Art Unit: 1731

Examiner: Fiorilla, Christopher A.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Under the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 through §1.99 and pursuant to applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, applicant respectfully brings the following documents, cited in the European Search Report and listed on the attached form PTO-1449, to the attention of the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application. Copies of the listed documents are provided herewith for the convenience of the Examiner.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3), for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of the European Search Report citing such documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of that portion of the Search Report indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.

This citation does not constitute an admission that the references are relevant or material to the claims. They are only cited as constituting related art of which the applicant is aware.

I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was the first citation of that item by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, which occurred not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

It is respectfully requested that the listed references be considered by the Examiner and formally made of record in this application.

Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date:

4/19/04
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(Use several sheets if necessary.)

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